

# MENTAL HEALTH AND DISABILITY SERVICES COMMISSION

August 20, 2020 – 9:30am to 12:15pm

Zoom Meeting

Meeting Minutes

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## MHDS COMMISSION MEMBERS PRESENT:

Diane Brecht  
John Parmeter  
Lorrie Young  
Maria Sorensen

Richard Whitaker  
Russell Wood  
Janee Harvey  
Timothy Perkins

## MHDS COMMISSION MEMBERS ABSENT:

Shari O'Bannon  
Betsy Akin

Cory Turner  
Teresa Daubitz

## OTHER ATTENDEES:

Theresa Armstrong  
Jason Vermeer  
Marsha Edgington  
Jess Benson  
Kelly Garcia  
Bill Kallestad  
Dr. Caitlin Pedati  
Susan Seehase  
Natalie Ginty  
Ryenne Wood  
Teresa Bomhoff

Julie Jetter  
Flora Schmidt  
Katie Peck  
Dennis Bush  
Kris Bell  
Jan Heikes  
Adrienne Seusy  
Marissa Eyanson  
Carrie Malone  
Julie Maas

## Welcome and Call to Order

John Parmeter called the meeting to order at 9:35 am and led introductions. Quorum was established with ten members present. John asked meeting participants to limit questions and comments to the end of presentations and the public until public comment.

## Approval of Minutes

Richard Whitaker made a motion to approve the July 16, 2020 meeting minutes. Diane Brecht seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

## Mental Health and Disability Services Regional Policies and Procedures Amendments

### Southeast Iowa Link (SEIL)

Ryenne Wood presented a summary of changes made to Southeast Iowa Link's regional policy and procedures. Changes included the following: has designated children's coordinator and updated language reflecting this; modified organizational structure to accommodate advisory committees and governing board; voting membership designated by advisory board; eliminated language around risk pool; updated application and enrollment process; updated eligibility guidelines – diagnostic and financially; updated access points; updated service matrix; identified internal protocols to access services; and added extensively to glossary.

There was discussion regarding waiting lists for services. Ryenne did not anticipate waiting lists for this coming year.

Russell Wood made a motion to recommend DHS accept SEIL's policies and procedures. Diane Brecht seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

### **Update on Children's Board August 11, 2020 Meeting**

Theresa Armstrong provided an update of the Children's Board meeting that occurred on August 11, 2020. Both Kelly Garcia, DHS Director provided an agency update including the discussion on how DHS can best support parents with children returning to school or learning from home. Ann Lebo, Department of Education provided an agency update including the State Education Board noticing rules updating restraint and seclusion and \$19M in CARES Act dollars going to schools to support telehealth.

Theresa reported that Darci Alt, Heart of Iowa Services MHDS Region CEO, provided information on the virtual summit including MHDS Regions and Area Education Agencies (AEAs). Both Regions and AEAs discussed continuing to build relationships, identify gaps and how to address those gaps, and resource mapping and expanding services.

Theresa also summarized Sue Gehling's presentation on telehealth in schools and how her model operates to provide consultation to schools, assessments and evaluations, crisis intervention, and behavior management. Sue emphasized the importance of collaboration with school staff and braided funding to enhance services provided via telehealth in schools.

Theresa shared an updated provided by the Metrics Subcommittee including their work on clarifying metrics and outcomes, identifying what measures would look like, how they would be measured, and what data already exists.

Lastly, Theresa shared that Regional CEO's have been discussing how they will determine serious emotional disturbance (SED) for children consistently across Regions. Liz Cox and Julie Gibbons of Polk County shared checklists used by other states that include the importance of including the child's history and behavior, not just diagnosis when determining SED.

### **Test Iowa Sites**

Dr. Caitlin Pedati, Medical Director of Iowa Department of Public Health (IDPH), discussed Test Iowa sites including their establishment took into account an increase volume of people but does pose limitations to some populations. Because of this, Dr. Pedati reported additional collaboration and partnerships occurring across the state to provide additional clinic sites to accommodate a variety of individuals. Dr. Pedati encouraged additional feedback on increasing testing accessibility in the state.

Conversation was had regarding the importance of transparency with testing data to communities. Dr. Pedati agreed this transparency is important and is continued to be enhanced.

### **MHDS Update**

Theresa Armstrong provided an update regarding resources available on the DHS website following the derecho including the food replacement application, individual disaster assistance grant program, and disaster case management. Theresa spoke on the wonderful collaboration

of mental health and substance use providers across the state in working to ensure services are still provided in new and accessible ways.

Theresa provided an update on COVID Recovery Iowa still providing services and since beginning services on May 22<sup>nd</sup> has provided 143,000 contacts. Theresa also provided an update regarding CARES Act dollars including that each mental health and substance use provider was given information on how to apply for these dollars with applications being due September 11<sup>th</sup>. MHDS Regions have received their CARES Act dollars and are working to identify how best to use these dollars in their communities. Some Regions have identified that increasing mental health trainings in law enforcement due to increased calls and supporting children returning to in-person or online school are two areas where money can be utilized.

### **Public Comment**

None

### **Break**

The Commission took a break from 10:38am to 10:55am.

### **Annual Report Committees**

The legislative priorities committee met for thirty minutes to review last year's priorities and what topics should be added to this list.

### **Planning for Future Meetings**

John led a discussion on planning for the September and October Commission meetings with regards to planning for their biennial report. The Commission expressed interest in hearing more about the merge of mental health and substance use at the state level, federal bed restrictions impacting service delivery and development, and secure and stable funding for the system.

### **Adjourn**

The meeting adjourned at 11:34 am

Minutes respectfully submitted by Victoria Keith.